Projects of DRDO

3956. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects pending with Defence Research and Development Organisation, which are nearing completion;

(b) by when these would be in service with Defence forces; and

(c) by when DRDO is likely to be able to make the country free from foreign markets for vital defence items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The number of staff projects nearing completion in the near future is eighty-four. These include projects in the field of Armament, Aeronautics, Electronics, Engineering, Naval R&D materials & food technology.

(b) Most of the items/stores/equipment developed as a result of work on these projects are likely to be introduced in Defence Services within three years.

(c) The technology in respect of weapon systems/equipments is continuously changing and Defence Services will always be wanting to replace earlier weapons/equipments with new generation State-of-art technology system. In order to keep pace with the continuously changing technology, perspective plans have been drawn up by DRDO for advanced technology development in selected areas. The objective of the perspective plan is that by the end of the present century, the nation would not have to depend on import of defence systems for lack of indigenous capabilities.

Pending Excise Cases

3957. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than Rs. 2000 crores are blocked up in pending excise cases in the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken towards speedy finalisation of such cases; and

(c) the results achieved from such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) From the information available, the estimated amount involved in Supreme Court and High Courts in pending Central excise cases is Rs. 1850 crores. Major groups of cases have been identified and efforts are being made to get them listed for being heard and decided.

Misgivings over Light Combat Aircraft Plan Changes

3958. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 24th January, 1987 regarding misgivings over Light Combat Aircraft plan changes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All efforts are afoot to develop and design the LCA by adopting the most optimal technological approach to ensure the best possible cost-effective arrangement for expeditious execution of the Pro-